

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: April 23-29, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

Flights: 4/30: Bradley conducted a monitoring flight in SW Montana.

5/1: Ross conducted a monitoring flight in SW Montana.

4/28: Ben Jimenez (FWP tech on Bitterroot elk project) recovered a wolf collar on mortality in French Basin. The wolf was net-gunned and collared in February during the elk capture work. Ben found that the collar had been chewed off.

4/28: Bradley trapped and collared a ~7 year old lactating adult female in Fish Creek west of Missoula. The wolf is believed to be a member of the Bitterroot Range pack which uses the west and north forks of Fish Creek. Traps were pulled.

4/29: FWP investigated and picked up a dead wolf with a radio collar in the Madison Valley. Circumstances are currently under investigation by the USFWS.

Smucker is trapping in the Bitterroot Valley for the Welcome Creek pack.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

4/25: WS investigated a report of a calf being killed by wolves on private land north of Dell. WS determined it to be a probable wolf kill as there was not much of the calf left to look at. Previously the rancher had seen two wolves in the area. WS has been authorized to collar and release a wolf to learn more on the wolf activity in the area.

The Blackfoot Challenge recently hired George Smith to fill the range rider position in the Blackfoot Valley this season. George will be working with ranchers in the valley to help monitor livestock in areas of wolf activity and is signed on as a volunteer with FWP to help monitor wolves. George will be starting the first week of May. Ty Smucker has also been hired on part-time with the Challenge to help with this project in addition to his duties working for FWP as a technician on the wolf program.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION: Nothing to report.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

OTHER UPDATES: Nothing to report.

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.